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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
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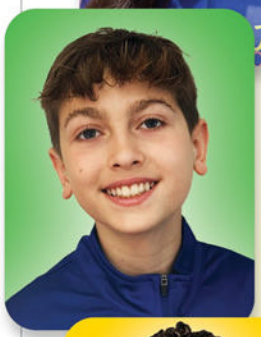
Check out this week's reading pick
p20

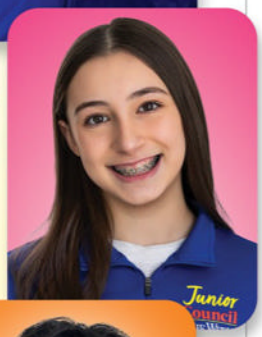
May 15, 2026 • Vol. 7, Issue 317 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

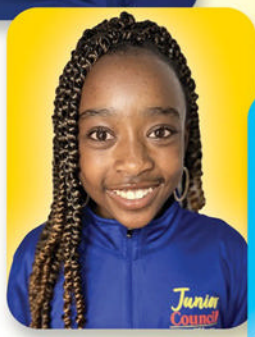
THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

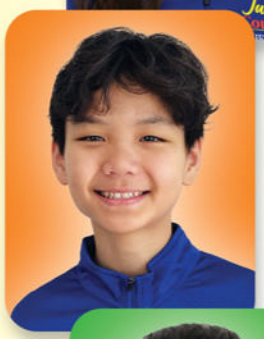


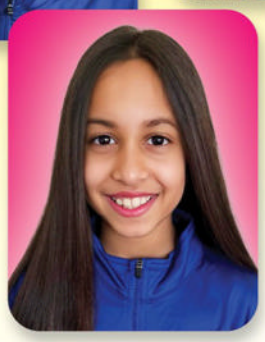


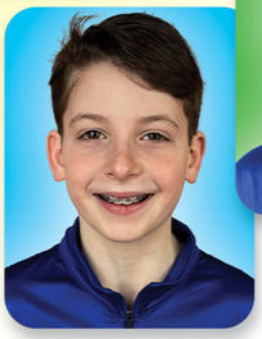
CHANGE THE WORLD

Junior Council members share ideas about how kids can help their communities p22









HOME BASE
The US Supreme Court first met in New York City in 1790, then moved to Philadelphia from 1791–1800 before settling in Washington, DC, in 1801.

The Supreme Court Building

Becoming a justice

Supreme Court justices are nominated by the President when there's an opening on the court. They must be confirmed by the Senate (one half of Congress), which involves answering questions from lawmakers in public hearings. Once confirmed, justices serve on the court for life or until they step down.

Supreme Court decides on voting case

On April 29, the US Supreme Court (nation's highest court of law) ruled that Louisiana lawmakers had illegally used race as a factor when creating a map of voting districts. The court's vote was 6–3. Legal experts said the decision could have far-reaching effects on upcoming elections and the Voting Rights Act.

What is a voting district?

The US is divided into 435 Congressional districts, and each one elects a member of the House of Representatives (one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws). According to the US Constitution (nation's highest law), each district must include about the same number of people. To accomplish that, states typically "redistrict" every 10 years to account for changes in where people live and to ensure that all citizens, including people of color and other minorities, are fairly represented.

Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act

What is the Voting Rights Act?

This landmark civil rights law, which was signed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965, banned any voting practice that discriminated against people based on their race. Before the law was passed, Black Americans in some states faced unfair obstacles to voting, such as being required to pay a tax or take a literacy test. White Americans did not face these obstacles. The law stated that, under certain circumstances, if a minority group had less of an opportunity to vote or elect leaders of its own choosing, lawmakers had to create districts where those minority voters made up a majority of the population. The act has since been expanded to include voters with disabilities.

What were the case and decision?

About a third of Louisiana's population is Black, but before 2024, only one of its six congressional districts was a majority-Black district. In 2024, the map was redrawn to include a second majority-Black district, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act. However, a group of non-Black voters filed a lawsuit claiming that the second district was unlawful and that the map had been illegally gerrymandered (redrawn in a way that favors certain political groups or parties), using race as a deciding factor. The six Supreme Court justices in the majority, all of whom were appointed by Republican Presidents, agreed and applied stricter limits to how lawmakers can consider race when drawing voting maps. They also said many of the legal protections in place for non-white voters are no longer needed because society has changed and there is less racial discrimination. And they said voters must prove that any racial discrimination was intentional.

What did the dissenters say?

The three justices who dissented (disagreed), all appointed by Democratic Presidents, said the decision dismantled the Voting Rights Act. They said leaders in other states will now have more freedom to gerrymander their congressional maps to limit minority voting power or support their own parties. One justice, Elena Kagan, read her opinion out loud in court, an unusual move that typically reflects a strong objection. She wrote that the Voting Rights Act had "ushered in awe-inspiring change, bringing this Nation closer to fulfilling the ideals of democracy and racial equality" and that the court's new ruling "betrays its duty to faithfully implement the great statute Congress wrote." Kagan also said it's nearly impossible to prove racist intent.

What will happen next?

Supreme Court decisions are final and cannot be appealed. Midterm elections are set for November. Louisiana was expected to hold primary elections on May 16, but House primaries have been put on hold while the state works to redraw its districts before voting begins. Elsewhere, Florida passed a congressional map that could give Republicans an advantage in 24 of the state's 28 districts. Other Republican-led states, including Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina, are trying to draw maps that achieve similar results. Democrats are expected to do the same in states they lead.

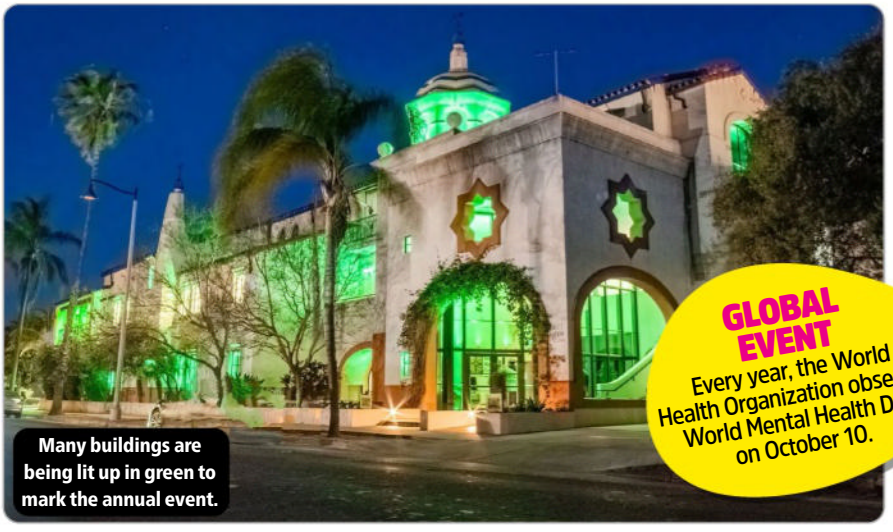
ON THE COVER: ILLUSTRATIONS BY LORENA BAYONA; ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY THE PUBLISHER

LA schools will limit screen time

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the second-largest district in the country, has passed a resolution to limit student screen time in classrooms starting in the 2026–2027 school year. LAUSD, which is in California, is one of the first big US school districts to pass this type of measure.

Previously, LAUSD promoted classroom technology use, such as digital lessons, instructional videos, and coding tools. Since then, however, experts have linked excessive screen time to lower academic performance, sleep issues, and other concerns. The new plan was developed after parents, teachers, and students questioned the effects of screens on children.

The resolution aims to balance technology with more hands-on, teacher-guided instruction, including traditional work with paper and pencil. It calls for a ban on all digital devices before second grade and daily screen-time limits in higher grades. That includes time spent on schoolwork and access to video and gaming platforms like YouTube or Roblox. The plan did not specify what the limits should be but stated that student screen time would be tracked. Devices would be banned almost entirely during recess and lunch.



Many buildings are being lit up in green to mark the annual event.

GLOBAL EVENT
Every year, the World Health Organization observes World Mental Health Day on October 10.

Mental Health Awareness Month begins

May is Mental Health Awareness Month in the US. Started by the nonprofit group Mental Health America (MHA) in 1949, the event raises awareness of mental health issues, provides education about the symptoms of mental illness, and helps people find resources and support.

Mental health is related to how people think, feel, and behave. Although everyone feels sad at times, feelings that persist can develop into more serious conditions like anxiety or depression. According to MHA, one in five people in the US has a mental health condition.

Many organizations are marking the month with talks and cultural events. This year, MHA's theme is "More Good Days, Together," which encourages people to think about what a "good day" is for them and connect with others to give and receive support. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is encouraging people to share their stories to make it more comfortable for people to talk about mental health.

On May 2, more than 6,000 people took part in the New York Road Runners Mindful 5K to emphasize the link between physical and mental health. And more than 200 hospitals, businesses, schools, and landmarks, including Niagara Falls, will be lit up in green, the month's signature color.

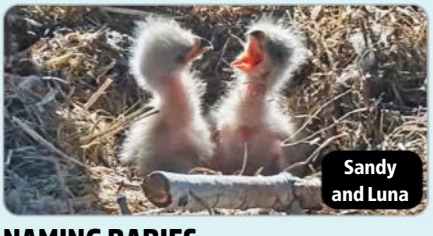
If you are worried or anxious, tell a trusted adult about your feelings. Many worries are normal, and talking to someone can help you understand what you're experiencing. An adult can also support you in identifying activities to reduce stress and schedule an appointment with a health professional if that seems helpful.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

HONORING BARBIE

The US Postal Service (USPS) said it will release 10 new Barbie stamps. They will feature the iconic doll dressed for a variety of careers, including astronaut, judge, and surgeon. The stamps are meant to "evoke a feeling of joy," USPS said.

One of the stamps



Sandy and Luna

NAMING BABIES

Two eaglets born to famous bald eagles Jackie and Shadow in Big Bear Valley, California, have been named. Local third graders chose Sandy and Luna in an online vote. Sandy is named for the woman who set up the bald eagle cam that has tracked the chicks' parents for years.

A LEGEND'S BIRTHDAY

May 8 marks the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough, the famous filmmaker who has shared his love of nature and wildlife with generations of viewers. The BBC will host a weeklong celebration of his legacy. "David has changed the way we see and understand the world," one collaborator said.

David Attenborough

SOPHIE CAMERON; LAUSD; USPS; FRIENDS OF BEAR VALLEY; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); SCOTUS

DID YOU KNOW?
The longest complete US government shutdown lasted 43 days, from October 1 to November 12, 2025.

A view of the US Capitol, where Congress meets

Update on airports

Although the shutdown is over, travelers may still face delays at airport security checkpoints. That's because TSA employees being hired to fill staffing shortages must complete up to six months of training before they can carry out their duties. The DHS said people should expect summer travel to be affected.

Funding ends government shutdown

On April 30, President Donald Trump signed legislation that will fund most operations of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The law marked the end of a 76-day partial government shutdown, the longest in history.

What was the shutdown?

The DHS shut down on February 14 after members of Congress (branch of government that makes laws) could not agree on how to fund the department, which has more than 260,000 workers. DHS agencies include Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA). Democrats called for ICE to make reforms before agreeing to fund the DHS, while Republicans pushed back. During the shutdown, government projects were put on hold and many DHS workers went without pay. More than 1,100 TSA workers quit, causing long waits for travelers at airport security checkpoints.

What was the solution?

On March 27, the Senate (one half of Congress) voted unanimously (all in favor) to pass a bill that would fund most of the DHS, except ICE and CBP. The Senate sent the bill to the House of Representatives (other half of Congress), but the House declined to vote on it. House lawmakers were warned, however, that the temporary funding that was being used to pay some government workers during the shutdown was about to run out. The House approved the funding package, and Trump signed the bill into law the same day.

How did people react?

Markwayne Mullin, head of the DHS, said the funding was crucial for the department. Everett Kelley of the American Federation of Government Employees said he was pleased that Congress had funded the DHS, but the length of time it took was "unacceptable." Both Democratic and Republican lawmakers claimed victory for the legislation.

What will happen next?

DHS workers who missed paychecks will receive back pay. The funding runs through September 30, so Congress must pass new legislation to support the DHS after that. The new law doesn't provide funding for ICE and CBP, but Republicans will fund them through "budget reconciliation," which doesn't require support from Democrats.

WORD OF THE WEEK

DATA

First recorded in the 1600s, "data" meant "things assumed to be facts." It's the plural of the Latin *datum*, meaning "something given" and used to describe a single piece of information. In the Middle Ages, a letter was often headed with the Latin *data epistola*, meaning "a letter given or delivered" on a certain day. This became the word "date."

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

May 15, 1918
First airmail routes open

On May 15, 1918, the nation's first regular airmail routes opened between New York City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC. Using airplanes, flown by Army pilots, the mail could be delivered more quickly than if it traveled by boat, train, or car. In 2018, the US Postal Service celebrated the 100th anniversary of airmail service with a reenactment of the flights.

The first scheduled airmail flight

The gold medal

Pulitzer Prizes are awarded

The winners of the Pulitzer Prizes, the highest US honors for journalism, were announced on May 4. The prizes, given this year for the 110th time, also honor excellence in the arts. *The New York Times* won the most Pulitzers, with three. The prize for public service, the most prestigious Pulitzer and the only one awarded a gold medal, went to *The Washington Post* for chronicling how President Donald Trump's cuts to federal agencies have affected people.

An Amtrak train

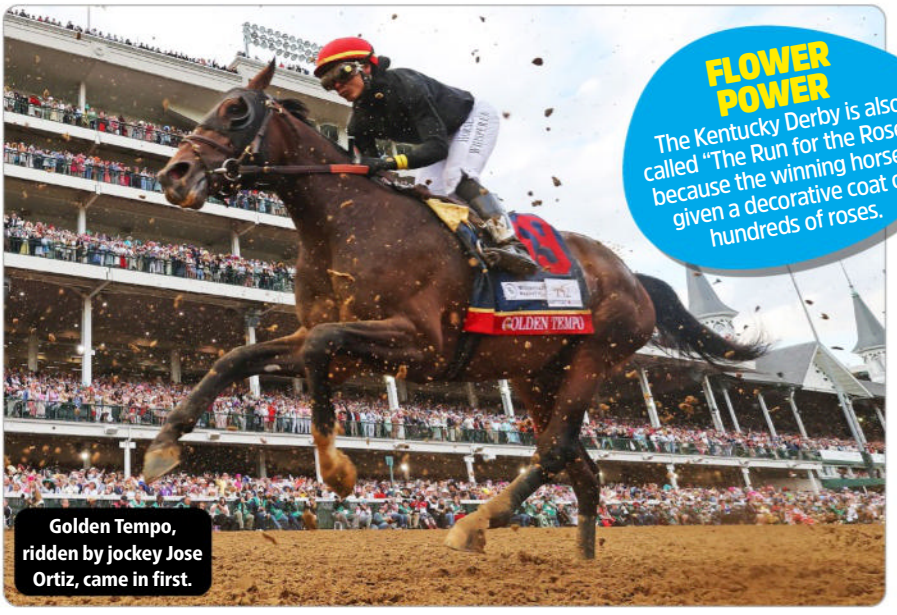
Train ridership increases in US

Amtrak, the largest US passenger railroad, experienced a 5% increase in ridership in March, compared to a year ago. Brightline, a private railroad in Florida, said its ridership had increased by 20% in March. Many passengers said they were traveling by train instead of car due to the high cost of gasoline. On May 3, the average price for a gallon of gas was $4.46, up from $2.98 in February.

A Little Free Library

Little Free Library Day is set

The first-ever National Little Free Library Day will be held on May 17, the 14th anniversary of the nonprofit's founding, and will kick off Little Free Library Week. Since 2012, more than 500 million books have been shared through the group's mini libraries. Activities throughout the week, which include a photo contest and a bingo game, are listed at littlefreelibrary.org/LFLweek.



Golden Tempo, ridden by jockey Jose Ortiz, came in first.

FLOWER POWER
The Kentucky Derby is also called "The Run for the Roses" because the winning horse is given a decorative coat of hundreds of roses.

Historic win at Kentucky Derby

The 3-year-old Thoroughbred bay colt Golden Tempo won the Kentucky Derby, one of the most famous horse races in the world, on May 2. The achievement made Cherie DeVaux the first woman to train a Derby-winning horse in the event's 152-year history.

The Kentucky Derby was first held in 1875 and is the oldest continuously held sporting event in the US. It takes place at the Churchill Downs racetrack in Louisville, Kentucky, and involves up to 20 horses running on a track that is 1.25 miles long. Each horse is ridden by a jockey. The Derby is one of three races, along with the Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes, that make up the Triple Crown. When a horse wins all three of these races in the same year, they are considered a Triple Crown winner.

Cherie DeVaux grew up around horse racing because her father operated a horse stable. She began working with horses professionally while in college and earned her horse-training license in 2018. Since then, she has won nearly 300 races. She is the second woman to train the winner of a Triple Crown race, after Jena Antonucci, trainer of the 2023 Belmont winner, Arcangelo. DeVaux is one of 18 women to train horses that have competed in the Derby. "I'm just glad I could be a representative of all women everywhere that we can do anything we set our minds to," she said after the win.

Horse trainer Cherie DeVaux

Golden Tempo spent much of the race in last place but made a spectacular comeback at the end to finish in first, narrowly ahead of Renegade. Golden Tempo was ridden by Jose Ortiz, who clinched his first Derby win, while Renegade's jockey was Ortiz's brother, Irad Ortiz Jr.

The Preakness will take place on May 16. DeVaux and the owners of Golden Tempo said they will see how well he recovers before deciding whether or not to enter him in that race.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Moose naps outside Montana radio station called 'The Moose'" *UPI*

GETTY IMAGES (6); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); TSA

Around the world

A rendering of the viewing gallery

London, United Kingdom
New health center for animals

As the Zoological Society of London marked its 200th anniversary on April 29, it announced plans to create a new wildlife health center. The facility will care for animals at the London Zoo and support wildlife conservation. It will also be the first UK veterinary hospital with a viewing gallery for the public. Visitors will be able to watch as experts conduct research and provide care, from penguin health checks to frog x-rays.

Bamako

Bamako, Mali
Roads to capital city blocked

Rebel fighters have blocked at least three main routes into Bamako, Mali's capital city, leaving residents stranded outside. The armed extremist group responsible for the blockade, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, has been fighting against Mali's government since 2017. In Bamako, the group has joined forces with the Azawad Liberation Front, which wants to set up an independent country in northern Mali.

Some of the reefs

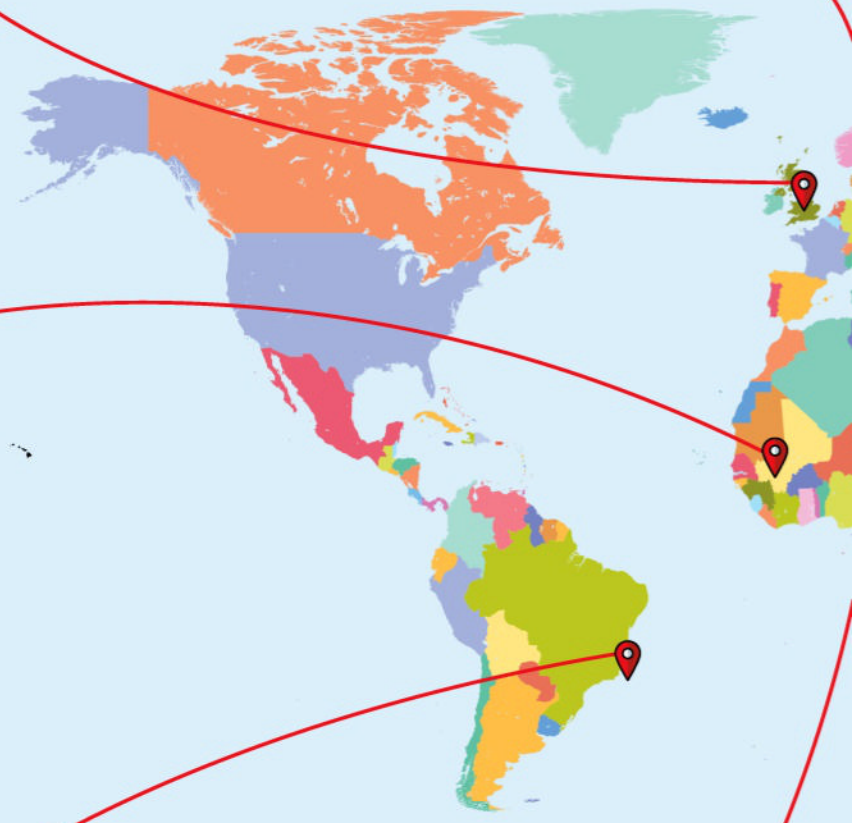
Abrolhos Islands, Brazil
Coral reef damage assessed

Scientists reported that climate change and human activities have led coral cover in the Abrolhos reefs to decline by 15% over 18 years. Coral reefs are hard structures built by tiny animals called coral polyps. Warmer ocean temperatures can cause coral bleaching, which occurs when corals become stressed, turn white, and are at risk of dying.

Wismar, Germany
Stranded whale rescued

A rescue operation for a humpback whale that had been stranded in shallow waters of the Baltic Sea near Germany was completed on May 2. German officials approved a plan to guide the whale, nicknamed Timmy, onto a water-filled barge and release him in the North Sea off the coast of Denmark, closer to his Atlantic Ocean habitat.

Timmy on the barge



Rome, Italy
Lost poem found

Researchers discovered a lost copy of a medieval poem in Rome. Composed by a Northumbrian cattle herder in the 7th century, "Caedmon's Hymn" is the earliest poem known to exist in the English language. After a monk named Bede wrote down the words, experts believe another monk in northern Italy transcribed it in the 9th century. The newly discovered manuscript is the third-oldest surviving version of the poem.

The researchers

GETTY IMAGES (4); KYODO VIA AP IMAGES; ASSOCIATED PRESS; TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN; SHUTTERSTOCK; ZSL; PHILIP DULIAN/DPA VIA AP

Around the world

Andrzej Poczobut

Belarus
Journalist freed

Andrzej Poczobut, a journalist, was released from prison in Belarus during a prisoner swap with Poland. Poczobut, who works for a Polish newspaper, was arrested in 2021 and given an eight-year sentence for "harming Belarus' national security." The US helped arrange the exchange of 10 prisoners, including a scholar set free by Poland.

The team posing with the flag used before the Taliban's rule

Afghanistan
Refugee team approved for competition

FIFA, the global governing body of soccer, granted the Afghan Women United team permission to represent Afghanistan in competitions even though the country's government doesn't approve. The Taliban, an extremist group that has controlled Afghanistan since 2021, bans women's sports. The team is made up of refugees from Afghanistan who were forced to flee their country and now live in other places.

A robotic baggage handler

Tokyo, Japan
Robots to help with luggage

Humanoid robots are being trained to move luggage and cargo at Haneda airport in Tokyo. Japan is facing a surge in tourism as well as an ongoing labor shortage, and officials hope robots can ease the demands on human baggage handlers by performing some of the most physically demanding tasks. The robots will be introduced on a trial basis until 2028, and could be added to the airport permanently after that.

The visiting kiwi

Wellington, New Zealand
Iconic bird makes visit to mark success

New Zealand's national bird visited its parliament (similar to Congress) in honor of a reintroduction milestone in the capital city. An estimated 12 million kiwis once roamed the land, but today about 70,000 remain nationwide. The Capital Kiwi Project has now relocated 250 kiwis from sanctuaries to the hills around Wellington, trapping predators to keep the flightless birds safe.

Sabastian Sawe

Nairobi, Kenya
Athlete celebrated

The new record holder for the world's fastest marathon received a hero's welcome when he returned home to Kenya on April 29. Sabastian Sawe ran the 26.2-mile London Marathon in 1 hour, 59 minutes, and 30 seconds. Upon arrival at the Nairobi airport, he was greeted with a water salute, dancing, and a wreath. He then met Kenyan president William Ruto, who awarded him $62,000 and a set of car license plates featuring his record time—01:59:30.

Should people stop traveling by air?

Flying lets us see the world, but it's harmful to the environment.

What you need to know

- **Worldwide, there are 717 airlines operating more than 102,000 daily flights to and from 3,921 airports.**
- **When jets and planes burn fuel, they emit greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, that get trapped in the atmosphere and warm the planet.**
- **Carbon emissions contribute to climate change, rising temperatures, and extreme weather patterns.**
- **A 2020 report found that 1% of people account for 50% of carbon emissions from commercial flights.**

Air travel offers a quick and popular way of traveling anywhere in the world. In 2024, there were about 876 million airplane passengers in the US, including nearly 108 million Americans who flew to another country. More than 72 million people traveled from other countries into the US. People travel to visit family and friends or to explore and experience different cultures. There's a cost to all this flying, however. Planes burn fossil fuels that release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. They also give off nitrogen oxides, which further pollute the air. What do you think? Should people stop traveling by air?

Yes—there are better ways to travel

Flying is terrible for the planet. Although only about 11% of people in the world travel by air, it still has a huge environmental effect. That's unfair to the planet and to people who don't fly but are paying the price through climate change. And there are more interesting ways to travel than planes. Traveling by train, bus, or boat allows you to truly see the world rather than just the clouds through a tiny plane window. Besides, it's not essential to fly far away all the time. Every state in the US has something to offer, from beautiful beaches to national parks and excellent museums, that can be reached by ferry, road, or rail.

No—we can fly more sustainably

Flying to faraway places opens up the world, offers adventure, and makes it possible to meet people who are different from us. And it's a necessary part of modern life. In June 2025, there were nearly 52 million immigrants (people who came from another country) living in the US. That's a lot of people who need to fly home to see their family and friends in other countries. Takeoff and landing produce the most emissions, so we can find ways to reduce the environmental harm of air travel, like flying less often and choosing direct flights. And since the weight of luggage increases emissions, we could also pack lighter.

YES Three reasons people should stop traveling by air

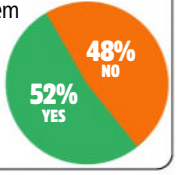
1. **Flying is bad for the environment because planes release greenhouse gases. It's time to change our ways.**
2. **Other modes of travel are more exciting and adventurous and let you see more along the way.**
3. **There's plenty to see close to home, which is great for communities and businesses.**

NO Three reasons people should not stop traveling by air

1. **Traveling by plane makes it possible to explore the world and learn about different cultures.**
2. **Millions of people in the US need to fly to visit family and friends in other countries.**
3. **We should focus our efforts on flying more sustainably, like flying less often, booking direct flights, and packing less.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week we asked if we should try to live on other planets. Your votes on moving farther out in our solar system were split: 52% of you said yes, and 48% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think people should stop traveling by air or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Leading with laughter

Arsenio Hall is reviving his groundbreaking TV and comedy career.

Comedian and actor Arsenio Hall made history as the first Black late-night host with *The Arsenio Hall Show*, which aired from 1989 to 1994. He has now returned to the spotlight with a best-selling book, *Arsenio: A Memoir*, and a stand-up tour across North America.

Growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, Hall loved watching late-night talk shows, especially *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*. At age 11, Hall practiced hosting in his basement, where he would set up chairs to mimic a studio audience. "I dreamed it. I planned it," Hall told NPR.

Eddie Murphy on *The Arsenio Hall Show* in 1987

After graduating from Kent State University in Ohio, Hall moved to Chicago, Illinois, in 1979 to pursue comedy. There, he performed stand-up and eventually became the opening act for famous singers such as Aretha Franklin and Tina Turner.

When *The Arsenio Hall Show* premiered in 1989, it quickly became a cultural phenomenon. It stood out for bringing younger, diverse voices to a mainstream TV audience. Hall hosted a wide range of guests, from Snoop Dogg and other musicians to politicians like Bill Clinton during his 1992 Presidential campaign. At its peak, it was the most-watched late-night show after Johnny Carson's.

In his new memoir, Hall shares stories of his journey to fame. The book primarily covers the six-year run of his talk show, the pressures he faced during that time, and his shocking decision to step down in 1994—topics he has rarely discussed publicly.

Hall told the *Today* show that one of the reasons he wrote the book is to convey the message: "If you dream and work hard, you can manifest your dream into reality."

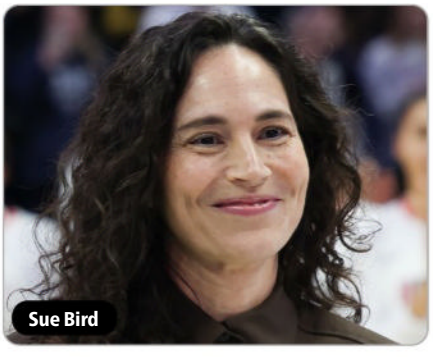
Arsenio Hall

FUN FACT
Instead of clapping on *The Arsenio Hall Show*, the live studio audience pumped their fists and chanted, "Woof!"

Making sea history

Renée Blacken of New Hampshire has become the first woman to row the Atlantic Dash solo, a 3,200-mile challenge across the Atlantic Ocean. Aboard a 20-foot boat named *Reset*, she made the journey from the Canary Islands to Antigua in 65 days, 2 hours, and 51 minutes. At age 43, she is also the oldest US woman to row the Atlantic solo. Blacken rowed to raise awareness as well as nearly $20,000 for trauma recovery. "There were parts of every day that were really hard—and parts that were beautiful," she said.

Renée Blacken



Sue Bird

A new sports role

Basketball legend Sue Bird will join NBC Sports as a studio analyst for its coverage of the 2026 WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association), starting on May 17. The four-time WNBA champion played 19 seasons with the Seattle Storm before retiring in 2022 as the league's all-time leader in assists. In 2025, she was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Bird's new role is her first as a lead analyst and marks her debut on a major network's broadcast team. She will also host behind-the-scenes features. "I'm so excited to get to tell those stories in real time," Bird said.

OVERHEARD

"I have walked up and down this street, hopscotching over these names for 50 years, daydreaming."

Award-winning actor and healthcare advocate Noah Wyle, who recently received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

GETTY IMAGES (4); COURTESY OF ATLANTIC DASH

SUPER SWIMMERS
Some humpback whales travel up to 10,000 miles every year.

Plans are being made to help Eurasian lynx.

Protections for migrating creatures

More than 130 countries have agreed on new protections for 40 species that migrate, including big cats, birds, and sharks. Migration is when animals travel from one place to another to find food or start a family and then later return to their original home.

Migratory species are affected by human-made barriers that stop them from moving freely, as well as pollution, hunting, and climate change. Some animals travel long distances through multiple countries and habitats, making it difficult to protect them.

The agreement was made in Campo Grande, Brazil, at an event called the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. This meeting builds on an agreement signed in 1979 in which countries promised to protect animals on a special list. That list now contains more than 1,200 species.

A striped hyena

The striped hyena was one of the animals given the highest level of protection. Found in Africa and parts of Asia, it is threatened by habitat loss and hunting. Striped hyenas are scavengers, so they mostly eat animals that are already dead, helping to clean up the landscape. The new protection means that countries must make changes such as removing fences to allow hyenas to travel and introducing stronger punishments to stop people from hunting the hyenas.

Other animals added to the list included cheetahs in Zimbabwe and jaguars in South and Central America, as well as giant otters that live in parts of South America. The otters are hunted for their fur, and their habitats are threatened by gold mines. Protections were also given to marine creatures and birds, including the pelagic thresher shark, which can be found off the coast of California, and the snowy owl, which visits the northern US in winter. The agreement also contains plans to help Eurasian lynx, catfish in the Amazon, and chimpanzees.

The new protections "demonstrate that nations can act when the science is clear," Amy Fraenkel, executive secretary of the convention, said in a statement. "Our duty now is to close the distance between what we've agreed and what happens on the ground for these animals."

Many massive migrations

An Arctic tern

One of the largest known animal migrations is undertaken by monarch butterflies. Each year, tens of millions of monarchs travel up to 4,000 miles from Canada and the northern US to Mexico and back again, seeking warmth.

Meanwhile, the Great Nile Migration is the biggest migration of land mammals. About 6 million antelopes cross South Sudan and Ethiopia during this yearly event.

Individually, the Arctic tern is thought to be the animal kingdom's greatest traveler. The birds chase the summer light, spending May to August in the sunny Arctic and then flying nearly 50,000 miles to enjoy the Antarctic from November to March, when it's winter in the north and summer in the south.

A gray squirrel

AW, NUTS! Gray squirrels have been seen pretending to bury nuts in order to fool others that might try to steal from their stash.

Squirrels work hard for favorite foods

A new study shows that squirrels are willing to put in extra effort to get their favorite food. Many animals eat whatever is most convenient, but squirrels prefer tastier treats even when they are harder to obtain.

Researchers from the University of Exeter in the UK set up platforms holding different foods on poles of varying heights. Squirrels could easily climb a wooden pole to get to pumpkin seeds, or they could use a taller, more slippery plastic pole to reach pieces of almond—their favorite snack. Over the course of the study, 11 wild gray squirrels made more than 4,000 choices. Even when faced with a more difficult climb, the animals still frequently chose the almonds.

A squirrel's place in its group influenced decisions. Lower-ranking squirrels were more likely to choose food that was easier to reach. Scientists think taking extra time to get to the tastier snacks could have increased their risk of losing the food to a stronger rival. Just like humans, squirrels will adjust how much work they put into getting what they want depending on the situation, the researchers concluded.

Animal of the week: Brazilian rainbow boa

A Brazilian rainbow boa at City of Portsmouth College in England gave birth to her second litter of snakelets despite having no mate. In this very rare process, called "parthenogenesis," a female animal reproduces on her own without a male.

- **LIFESPAN:** Up to 12 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Forests of Central and South America
- **SIZE:** Up to 6 feet long
- **DIET:** Amphibians, birds, eggs, mammals, reptiles
- **FUN FACT:** Their scales have a transparent upper layer that shines in many colors when they move.

Good week / Bad week

Golden eagles

More than 150 years after golden eagles were wiped out in England, the UK's government is spending about $1.3 million to bring these birds of prey back. A similar effort in Scotland led to a successful return.

Oysters in Japan

Farmers in Japan say their oysters are dying. According to experts, rising sea temperatures and an extreme heat wave last year made seawater unsuitable for the shellfish to survive. In one major region, up to 90% of oysters were reportedly lost.

Ask an expert

"How do snailfish survive under all the water pressure?"

Natalie, 8, Illinois

Thom Linley
Curator of fishes, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

Deep-living snailfish don't fight the high pressure. They harmonize with it. The pressure is just as high inside their bodies. They have adapted with invisible changes to the molecules that make up their bodies. A deep-sea snailfish would find it amazing that you can live in your environment.

A hadal snailfish

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out about Linley's *The Deep-Sea Podcast* at deepseapod.com.

GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: ALAMY; RUSHIKESH DESHMUKH; GETTY IMAGES (2)

A view of Mohenjo-daro

ANCIENT MYSTERY
Indus Valley writing, also known as Harappan script, consists of hundreds of symbols that have never been deciphered.

Discoveries change city's story

One of the world's greatest ancient cities might be centuries older than scientists thought, a new study of its ruins found. The discovery could change what we understand about how early civilizations developed.

The city of Mohenjo-daro was part of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, along the Indus River in what is now Pakistan and northern India. Archaeologists (people who study objects left by people long ago) initially thought it was built in about 2500 BCE. Recently, however, researchers re-examined a large structure among its ruins that was first believed to have been built to hold back river floods. It was later identified as a city wall.

Ancient art found in Mohenjo-daro

The team used radiocarbon dating (a method of determining the age of objects) to determine that the wall was between 100 and 200 years older than previously thought. This means there may have been an even older settlement dating back to about 2700 BCE, making Mohenjo-daro older than the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt and the stone circle at Stonehenge, in the UK.

Mohenjo-daro was very advanced for its time. The streets were wide and carefully laid out in a grid pattern, and houses were made of baked mud bricks. There was a water system with wells for drinking water, large public baths, and sewers. Most homes even had washrooms. One of the city's most famous features, the Great Bath, was a paved pool nearly 40 feet long and 8 feet deep.

The study also revealed that Mohenjo-daro was more than double the size experts thought it to be. It covers about a square mile, making it one of the largest cities in the world at that time. Artifacts like pottery, tools, and jewelry made from ivory and gold have been found at the site, suggesting that many of its citizens were wealthy.

The new research also changed theories on the city's fate. It was abandoned between 1800 and 1700 BCE, but no one has known exactly why. One theory was that major flooding or a massive fire forced people to leave, but no evidence of either has been found. After analyzing fragments of animal bones and teeth, experts now think shrinking food supplies were likely to blame. Warming weather and less rainfall may have meant that people struggled to grow enough crops to feed everyone, so they moved elsewhere.

Cities of the Indus Valley

There were more than 1,400 towns and cities in the Indus Valley. Mohenjo-daro, which may have had up to 40,000 people, and Harappa were likely the biggest. Experts think Harappa was one of the busiest cities, with public wells where people washed clothes and workshops where they used beads, shells, and stone tools.

The city of Lothal was a port for trading ships that sailed to other Indus cities and around the Indian Ocean. Jars decorated with bulls, horses, and birds have been found in Lothal. Kalibangan, meaning "black bangles," is named after the terra-cotta bracelets found there. Experts think Kalibangan has the oldest evidence of a ploughed field, a sign of farming.

AI data centers create warming problem

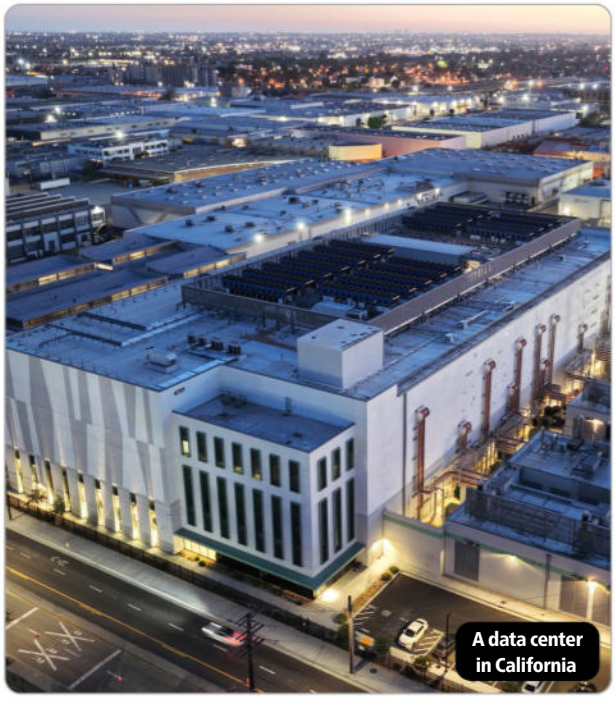
A study has found that data centers powering artificial intelligence (AI, computer systems that learn like humans do) generate so much heat that they warm up surrounding areas. The large buildings house computers to process and store digital information.

Researchers looked at heat patterns on Earth recorded by space satellites over the past 20 years. They compared general temperatures with those close to 6,000 data centers around the world. To make sure the heat wasn't coming from other buildings or traffic, they focused on sites away from cities and big towns.

On average, the areas around data centers were about 3.6º F warmer than usual, but in the most extreme cases they were up to 16.4º F warmer. This effect was not limited to the areas directly around the centers. Researchers recorded higher temperatures up to six miles away. Experts say the warming could harm the environment and affect people's health, especially vulnerable groups like older people, children, and those with certain health conditions.

FACT FILE
To answer one question, an AI chatbot uses as much power as it takes to run 14 LED light bulbs for an hour.

The researchers suggested solutions such as software that makes AI data centers run on less energy and painting buildings with a special coating to limit the amount of heat that escapes from them. Excess heat can also be captured and reused. In Sweden, waste heat from data centers is heating homes. Recycled heat could reduce pollution and lower electricity bills.


A data center in California

A rendering of the fossil (above) and a modern nautilus (left)

Scientists reclassify an octopus fossil

A 310-million-year-old fossil thought to be the world's earliest known octopus is not an octopus at all. Scientists now think it's the oldest known nautiloid, an ancestor of the modern nautilus that has tentacles and a shell.

The fossil, called Pohlsepia mazonensis, was found in Illinois 26 years ago. At the time, scientists identified it as an octopus. Octopus fossils are rare because their bodies are made of soft muscle and skin, which break down quickly and leave little behind.

In the recent study, scientists looked beneath the fossil's surface with synchrotron technology, a type of x-ray that uses light brighter than the Sun. This revealed new details, like tiny teeth, that matched another nautiloid fossil found nearby.

Octopuses and nautiloids are both cephalopods. The findings will help scientists understand how this group of creatures evolved.

A door that's made of mushrooms

AMAZING INVENTION

The door (right) and a close-up (above)

Designers in Denmark said they have created the first mass-produced door made from mycelium, the underground root-like network that mushrooms sprout from.

The mycelium is grown inside a door-shaped mold and framed with scrap wood that would usually be thrown away. It takes two weeks to grow one door. That's more sustainable than cutting down trees to build one.

The design is currently being tested. Its designers said it's as safe and strong as standard doors and has natural soundproofing properties.

GETTY IMAGES (2); UNIVERSITY OF READING; REBOUND (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Photos of the week

Pops of color
Giant inflatable shapes fill a building as part of an immersive exhibit in Italy.

Rainbow bright
At a California music festival, concertgoers gather near an illuminated spiral pavilion.

GETTY IMAGES (6)

Photos of the week

Center stage
A group of dancers prepares to perform in Equatorial Guinea.

Heads up
Stacks of hats are displayed in a market in Morocco.

Creature feature
Animal-shaped floral sculptures are on display at a flower show in China.

Free float
A mandarin duck swims in a UK park.

LUCKY LOCATIONS
This year, teams from Minnesota and Philadelphia advanced to the second round in both the NBA and NHL playoffs.

The New York Knicks vs. the Atlanta Hawks on April 30

NBA playoffs deliver surprises

The first round of the NBA (National Basketball Association) playoffs has ended, and it finished with surprising upsets and big comebacks. Eight teams advanced to the conference semifinals.

Two Western Conference teams won their best-of-seven series with little trouble. The defending champions, the Oklahoma City Thunder, who are seeded (ranked) number one, swept the eighth-seeded Phoenix Suns, 4–0, and the second-seeded San Antonio Spurs beat the seventh-seeded Portland Trail Blazers, 4–1.

The Spurs are now facing the sixth-seed Minnesota Timberwolves, who knocked off the third-seeded Denver Nuggets with a shocking 110–98 win in Game 6 of their series on April 30. The Wolves did it without top players Anthony Edwards, Donte DiVicenzo, and Ayo Dosunmu, who were all injured. The next day, the fourth-seeded Los Angeles Lakers held on to move past the fifth-seeded Houston Rockets with a 98–78 win in their own Game 6. They now face the Thunder in the conference semifinals.

Joel Embiid

The action in the East featured a stunning 140–89 Game 6 victory by the New York Knicks over the Atlanta Hawks on April 30 to conclude their series. At halftime, the Knicks were up 83–36, the largest halftime lead in NBA playoff history. At one point, they led by 61 points.

The other two first-round series in the East stretched to seven games. The second-seeded Boston Celtics had been up, 3–1, over the seventh-seeded Philadelphia 76ers, but the 76ers won three in a row for the biggest playoff upset so far. In Game 7 on May 2, Joel Embiid led the 76ers to a 109–100 win with 34 points, 12 rebounds, and six assists. The 76ers had not beaten the Celtics in a playoff series in 44 years.

The top-seeded Detroit Pistons made a similar three-game comeback against the eighth-seeded Orlando Magic. In Game 6 on May 1, the Pistons had been trailing by 24 points in the second half but pulled off a victory. They won Game 7 two days later, 116–94. Later, in the final first-round game, the fourth-seeded Cleveland Cavaliers rallied from being down by double digits to beat the fifth-seeded Toronto Raptors, 114–102. Now Cleveland is facing Detroit, and the Knicks are taking on the 76ers.

Top NBA players honored

Cooper Flagg

During the week of April 27, winners of several NBA awards were announced. Cooper Flagg of the Dallas Mavericks was named Rookie of the Year. He led his team in points, rebounds, assists, and steals—a first for a rookie since 1985. Flagg had close competition from his former Duke University teammate Kon Knueppel, who plays for the Charlotte Hornets.

The Hornets' Moussa Diabaté won the Hustle Award for making plays that take a great deal of effort, such as recovering loose balls. The Teammate of the Year award went to Deandre Jordan of the New Orleans Pelicans for his selfless play and leadership.

MAJOR MILESTONE
Portland Thorns midfielder Olivia Moultrie, age 20, is the youngest NWSL player to compete in 100 regular-season games.

Boston Legacy FC players celebrating on May 3

Exciting wins in the NWSL

The NWSL (National Women's Soccer League) is about one quarter of the way through its regular season. In June, the action will pause for the men's World Cup, so teams are under pressure to improve their standings before the break.

One of the biggest matches of the season took place on April 29, when the second-place Portland Thorns faced the first-place San Diego Wave FC and beat them, 2–0, to take over the top spot in the standings. The same day, the Boston Legacy FC, one of two new NWSL teams this season, also hit a milestone. They had been 0–5 but finally earned their first point in the standings after their match against the North Carolina Courage ended in a 2–2 draw.

Four days later, the Legacy faced the Denver Summit FC, the league's other new team, and came away with their first victory after a thrilling match. Denver led, 2–1, after nearly 90 minutes, but Boston then rallied to score two goals in four minutes and secure the win.

Another recent highlight was a May 2 match between the Orlando Pride and the Washington Spirit, which the Spirit won, 4–2. It was their fourth straight victory. The Spirit's Sofia Cantore scored twice in the first six minutes, a record for the fastest brace (two goals) in the NWSL. Orlando star Barbra Banda scored two goals of her own before halftime. In the second half, the Spirit's Claudia Martínez scored the team's third goal, and their star Trinity Rodman, who had assisted on both of Cantore's goals, scored the fourth.

As of May 4, the Thorns led the Spirit and Wave by four points in the standings.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Hunter Erensel**

Team: **New York Ice Cats Hockey Club**

"Coach Hunter always inspires me to be the best hockey player I can be. Whether we win or lose, he never criticizes us, and he tells us ways we can improve for the next game. Every week, after every game, he gives out the 'Broadway hat,' an Ice Cats hat for the MVP. He teaches us how to work together as a team with certain plays and techniques. Coach Hunter has not only made me a better player, but a better teammate and friend." Abraham, 10, New York

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

MORE BIG MOMENTS

Hailey Baptiste

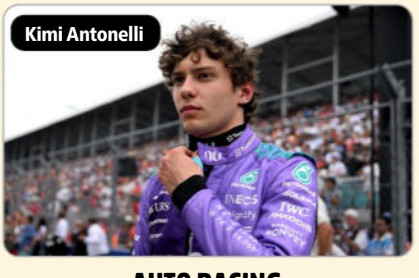
TENNIS

In a major upset during the quarterfinals of the Madrid Open on April 28, Hailey Baptiste of the US, who was ranked 32nd in the world, beat Aryna Sabalenka, the world's top player. Sabalenka was the tournament's defending champion and had been on a 15-match winning streak. Baptiste is now 25th in the rankings.

Katie Ledecky

SWIMMING

US star Katie Ledecky won the 1,500-meter freestyle race at the Fort Lauderdale Open on April 29. She won by 77 seconds and swam the fifth-fastest time in 1,500-meter history. Ledecky has the 13 fastest times in the event and has not lost a race in the distance since 2010, when she was 13 years old.



Kimi Antonelli

AUTO RACING

Kimi Antonelli, a 19-year-old Italian race car driver for Mercedes, won the Formula 1 (F1) Miami Grand Prix on May 3. It was his third straight victory. Lando Norris of McLaren finished in second, and his teammate Oscar Piastri took third. Antonelli is in first place in the F1 Grand Prix driver standings.

GETTY IMAGES (4); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

DID YOU KNOW?
St. Louis, Missouri, was named for King Louis IX, who ruled France from 1226 to 1270 and later became a Catholic saint.

Evening at *Patterns in Nature: The Art of HYBYCOZO*

Art mixes geometry and nature

Stunning steel sculptures are on display at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

An art exhibition at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis is making connections between math, plants, and flowers. *Patterns in Nature: The Art of HYBYCOZO* is made up of 21 large geometric steel sculptures with intricate cutouts that cast patterned shadows when light streams through them. It will run through September 26.

The artists behind *Patterns in Nature* are Serge Beaulieu and Yelena Filipchuk, whose studio, HYBYCOZO (pronounced hib-e-co-zo), is based in Los Angeles, California. Beaulieu has worked in industrial design, and Filipchuk has a background in environmental science. Jessika Eidson, a representative for the garden, told *The Week Junior* that Filipchuk's inspiration for *Patterns in Nature* came from the "beautiful geometric patterns" she saw when looking at cells, plants, and crystals under a microscope. "She was so mesmerized by them and wanted to bring those to people on a large scale," Eidson said. "While the artwork doesn't necessarily look natural, it contains a lot of patterns that are found in nature on a molecular level."

Yelena Filipchuk (left) and Serge Beaulieu

The sculptures have been placed around the garden's grounds and inside a building. Some of them have been displayed before, and others are new pieces that were made after the artists visited the garden last year. They were inspired by the colors of flowers and the garden's Climatron, a large geodesic dome (spherical structure made of geometric shapes). Although many pieces are a single metallic color, *Tesselation* (shown above) resembles a rainbow. From different angles, it looks like it is made of cubes or diamonds, but it's actually hexagons.

Visitors can interact with several of the installations. For example, *Point of View* has three sculptures that can be spun around. "You can see how the patterns change with a little bit of motion," Eidson said. *Insight*, meanwhile, has an opening that allows up to six people to step into the artwork.

At night, the sculptures are illuminated from the inside. To see them that way, visitors can buy tickets to *Patterns in Nature: LightForm*, which is scheduled for select evenings between now and the end of August.

Eidson hopes the exhibition ignites people's curiosity and helps them view the world around them in a new way. "We think of flowers as very soft and very delicate," she said. "But when you look closer at nature, it's very geometric."

More vibrant art in a garden

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Atlanta Botanical Garden in Georgia. As part of the celebration, the garden is bringing back an art exhibition, *Niki in the Garden*, that it exhibited 20 years ago. It opens May 9.

The show features 41 sculptures by French artist Niki de Saint Phalle, who died in 2002. Her art can be found in museums around the world. She is known for her "Nanas," which are large, colorful statues of women in energetic poses. A famous one is *The Three Graces*, which has three dancing figures and will be in a pond at the garden. Two of the biggest sculptures are *Large Yelling Man,* which is 16.5 feet tall, and *Grand Step Totem*, which weighs 2,000 pounds and is covered in tile, glass, and stones. Other pieces on display include animals (such as the elephant above) and monsters.

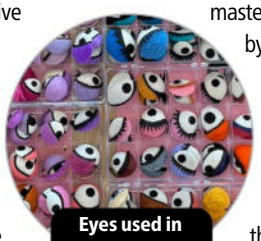
CLASSIC CHARACTER
Jim Henson made the first Kermit the Frog puppet using fabric from his mother's old coat and ping-pong balls for eyes.

Jim Henson's Creature Shop puppets

Puppet studio open to visitors

For more than 45 years, artists at Jim Henson's Creature Shop have been making Muppets, *Sesame Street* characters, and other well-known puppets and characters. Earlier this year, the Creature Shop in Queens, New York, began offering weekly ticketed tours that give visitors a rare look at its workshop.

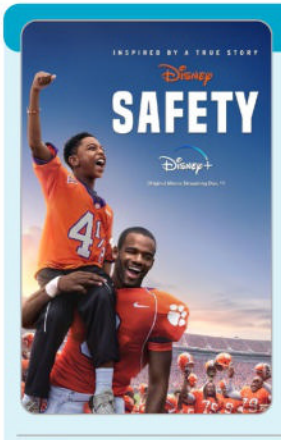
The Creature Shop was founded by legendary puppeteer Jim Henson, who died in 1990. He used puppetry to tell stories about imagination and kindness, and his famous characters include Kermit the Frog and Big Bird. He also developed the characters for classic films such as the sci-fi adventure *Labyrinth*. Today, the studio creates a range of puppets, including traditional hand puppets and animatronic (robot-like) characters. It is also where the puppets for the TV series *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock* are made.


Eyes used in making puppets

Workshop tours take place on Saturdays and last about 80 minutes. Visitors see artists stitching, shaping, and building characters and can get a close look at puppet parts such as eyes, noses, mustaches, teeth, and fangs. They also meet a master builder and get a live demonstration by a puppeteer. Workshop director Melissa Creighton told *The Week Junior* the tour's main goal is for people to "understand the process behind creating these characters."

Along with the workspaces, the Creature Shop has a collection of archival items on display, including puppets from *Fraggle Rock*, *The Dark Crystal*, and *Sesame Street*. Visitors have been amazed by the tours, Creighton said, and she believes it is because of "the joy and sincerity of Jim Henson's work and his dedication to doing something unique and new that inspires us every day."

READER RECOMMENDS



Safety *PG (Disney+)*

"This exciting and heartwarming movie is based on a true story. The main character is Ray, a football player at Clemson University, who has a younger brother, Fahmarr. When their mom can't take care of Fahmarr, Ray brings him back to campus to live. That is against the rules, so Ray has to keep Fahmarr hidden. He risks a lot to help his family. Another football player finds out about Fahmarr and forces Ray to tell their coach about him, which leads to more challenges. The movie teaches two good lessons: Family comes first, and asking for help is not a weakness." Levi, 10, Pennsylvania

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

3 MORE PICKS TO ENJOY THIS WEEK

LISTEN: LIVE FROM MOUNT OLYMPUS: APOLLO & ARTEMIS

The new final season of this award-winning podcast series, which is based on Greek myths, is its first musical season. It follows twin gods Apollo and Artemis, who challenge and support each other while facing monsters and family drama on Mount Olympus. (Major podcast platforms)

PLAY: MY MOLE

In this new adventure simulation game, you play as a mole exploring a hidden world beneath a city. You dig through sewers, subways, and tunnels to find secret basements and glimpses of the world above. While you explore, you can collect treasures, boost the mole's abilities, and give it fun outfits. (Apple App Store, Google Play)

WATCH: GANGNAM PROJECT

This acclaimed musical comedy-drama from Canada follows Hannah, a Canadian–South Korean teen who dreams of being a K-pop star. She travels to South Korea to work as a tutor at a K-pop training academy, where she navigates the intense environment and explores her cultural identity. (Netflix)

COURTESY OF JIM HENSON'S CREATURE SHOP (2); DISNEY; ONASSIS FOUNDATION/PRX KIDS; GAME START LLC; CBC; ON LEFT PAGE: NATHAN KWARTA/MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN; JOHN NGUYEN; JANA NIER MOONEYHAN

THIS WEEK'S BOOK

Last Day Pool Party

By Emma Steinkellner

After the eighth-grade graduation ceremony, Dustin plans to throw a pool party, but he's worried that none of his guests will show up because they think he's a crybaby. That's because last week, Maya, a super-popular girl who used to be friends with Dustin, posted a video that showed Dustin crying in the background.

But Maya is one of the first party guests to arrive and half-heartedly apologizes to Dustin. The drama doesn't end there. When Liv and Juhi, who are usually BFFs, show up, Dustin is surprised that they're fighting. Liv is feeling rejected about Juhi's upcoming move to London, so she holds "bestie auditions" to replace her pal.

Rose longs to be a possible candidate, since she has gone through school without a single friend. She made a list of goals she hoped would help her gain attention, only to never be noticed by anyone.

Then Maya wanders into the kitchen with Dustin, who is frosting a spectacular cake he baked, and they have a heart-to-heart talk. As day turns into night, the party gets wilder with more twists and turns. This graphic novel's spot-on dialogue and expressive cartooning will make you want to keep reading. *Ages 8–12*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Do you think Liv and Juhi can remain friends? What could keep them together or break them apart?

If Maya becomes friends with Dustin again, do you think she will still be popular? Why or why not?

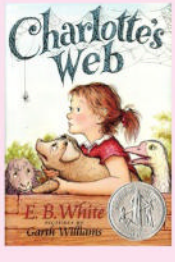
Rose's goals seem unrealistic, but do you think another character might have been able to achieve more of them?

What role do you think the parents played in helping the kids resolve their differences?

Which character do you most relate to in the story? Explain why.

Find your next great read

If you liked…



Charlotte's Web
By E.B. White
This touching friendship story follows Wilbur, a piglet determined not to end up as bacon. He may avoid the butcher thanks to the wise words from barn spider Charlotte, who lets the world know that he is no ordinary pig. ***Ages 8–12***

You might like…

Bless This Mouse
By Lois Lowry
Hundreds of church mice, led by the clever Hildegarde, must use every ounce of their ingenuity to avoid an exterminator's traps. But the arrival of cats during an animal blessing may prove to be even more dangerous. ***Ages 7–11***

Guess the book this quote comes from

"Most folks think you start to be a real adult when you're 15 or 16 years old, but that's not true. It really starts when you're around 6."

Hint: The classic book with a name in the title centers on a 10-year-old orphan.

Answer: *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis. Bud, an orphan forced to grow up fast during the Great Depression, faces challenges on the road to happiness.

THIS WEEK'S AUTHOR

Emma Steinkellner

An illustrator and writer living in Los Angeles, California, Emma Steinkellner is known for the graphic novel series *The Okay Witch*, which follows a 13-year-old outcast who discovers she's a witch. Steinkellner's middle-grade books often tackle serious topics, such as self-discovery and adolescence, with humor.

What inspired *Last Day Pool Party*?

I've always loved those last-day-of-school movies. And I remember how high stakes and emotional those last days of school before summer vacation felt.

What's your view of friendship?

It's huge. Your point of view isn't the only one—someone else will have a different story. If you're really open to listening and caring about how someone else feels, there's potential to really connect with someone, even if you're not similar or don't share the same hobbies. Still, there's potential for really wonderful, satisfying friendships if you can keep your heart open.

Did you enjoy drawing as a child?

Yes! My love of drawing really began with comics. Archie Comics were my whole world, and I amassed a huge collection. My parents' friends would give me their old comics from when they were kids. Comics got me into the idea of drawing and telling stories through art. As I started drawing, I found what I liked and what I didn't and developed my own style.

Who inspired your love of writing?

I come from a family of writers. My parents have been a writing team for TV and film, and my older brother and sister are also writers.

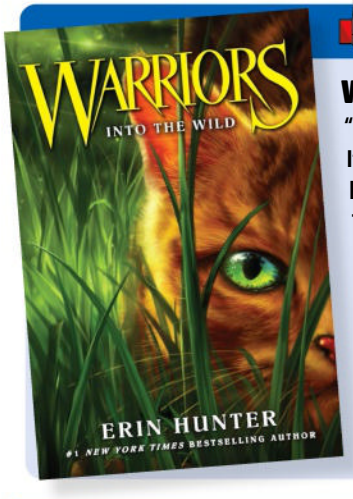
What is your creative process like?

I enjoy working digitally for my books. I use an iPad to draw, and I create all my work in Photoshop. I outline my basic story, and I design the characters. Then I write a script for what's going to happen in each panel and what the characters will say. I sketch the whole book first in pencil, make any edits, then add the color.

Summer drink: lemonade or iced tea?

Arnold Palmer! Why do we have to choose?

Reader recommends



Warriors: Into the Wild *By Erin Hunter*

"*Into the Wild* is the first book in the series *Warriors*. It's about a house cat named Rusty who leaves his home to join a group of wild forest cats known as ThunderClan. Longtail, one of the forest cats, snaps off Rusty's collar, and he becomes a ThunderClan apprentice with a new name, Firepaw. Rusty faces threats from other groups of wild cats like ShadowClan. If you like cats and adventure, you will like this book." Brooke, 9, New Jersey

Do you have a book to recommend? We want to hear about it! With an adult's help, please send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: MATT JEACLE; GETTY IMAGES

Summer camp spellbinders

Grab a flashlight to read these sweet and spooky sleepaway camp stories.

Camp Frenemies: Bunkmates for Never

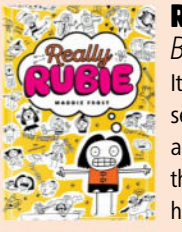
By Liz Montague

The second graphic novel in the *Camp Frenemies* series follows three girls who find that their return to camp isn't as much fun as they expected. As the oldest campers, they're given more tasks and responsibilities, plus they're growing apart from one another. Should they have stayed home after seventh grade ended? *Ages 8–12*

The Ghost in Cabin 13: A Graphic Novel

By J.C. Phillipps

Although the name Camp Cottontail doesn't exactly conjure up images of evil spirits, Cabin 13 is possessed. When a ghost enters Leah's doll, the 12-year-old is in for an experience much more frightening than finding a way to fit in with her teenage bunkmates. The book's artwork adds to the chills and thrills. *Ages 8–12*



Really Rubie

By Maddie Frost

It's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* set at summer camp with a female protagonist! In the first book of a new humorous illustrated series, 11-year-old camper Rubie, who promised her injured best friend that she wouldn't have any fun without her, finds herself getting attention from her bestie's crush. Now her summer misadventures are piling up like firewood. *Ages 8–12*

Find out more about *The Week Junior* Book Club and check out our previous titles at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Help your community

Junior Council members share how you can make a difference in the lives all around you.

When the 12 members of *The Week Junior*'s Junior Council began meeting for the spring 2026 session, it was clear they wanted to use their voices to raise awareness about helping their community. They came up with specific ideas, conducted research on the topic, interviewed experts, and wrote their stories. We hope their work inspires you to contribute to your community too! If you do, please write to us about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF USING YOUR VOICE

By Kesli, 13, North Dakota

Most people think civics is just for adults. But kids have rights too. Civics are the rights and duties of citizens, such as voting or paying taxes. While kids don't do those things, they can help to make changes in their community.

Last year I learned how to use my voice to make a difference. My state was trying to pass a bill that I didn't like, so I decided to do something about it. I wrote letters to my local government representatives and told them why I thought the bill was wrong. I also testified before state lawmakers. The bill did not pass, and I learned my voice has power.

I spoke with Ben Sheehan, host of PBS's *Civics Made Easy*, about why it's important for kids to learn civics and how to get more involved. He told me that children can attend town halls, volunteer for issues they care about, and stay informed about the news.

Of course, sometimes you can't change someone's mind. However, it's still important to speak up. Sheehan says that in a democracy, the political process is slow but intentional so that, ideally, the best decisions are made for everyone. He adds, "The earlier you learn how to participate in the political process, the more you're going to participate in it as an adult."

MAKE SPORTS ACCESSIBLE

By Rohan, 9, Virginia

I love playing sports because they're a fun way to spend time with friends and meet new people. But barriers like cost and accessibility mean not all kids get the chance to play. Here are some ways you can help more kids get in the game.

Donate gently used items. Talk to your family about donating old sports gear. I learned about Second Serve, a nonprofit that distributes gently used tennis gear to kids, and I collected 12 rackets and a bag of balls for donation. The nonprofit Leveling the Playing Field is another organization that helps get sports gear to kids.

Offer to be a mentor. Another way to help is by sharing your knowledge. You can teach younger kids proper techniques you've learned. Even sharing tips—such as how you stay positive after a disappointing loss—can help others feel more confident and motivated.

Ask kids to join. Sometimes the simplest thing you can do to help kids play sports is to invite someone on the sidelines to join you. Keep in mind that rules can be modified to suit all abilities. When I interviewed Nico Calabria from the Bionic Project, a group that advocates for an inclusive world, he said, "The number one goal is that people feel like they belong, including people who have a disability or are different in some way." Sports can help make that happen by bringing people together, teaching teamwork, and building friendships.

TAKE SIMPLE STEPS AT HOME TO PROTECT THE EARTH

By Lara, 10, New Jersey

Last year, I joined a gardening program through a local university and became a Junior Master Gardener. I learned about how plants grow and realized gardening is also about taking care of the Earth. Here are small changes that can protect our planet.

Grow a pollinator garden Pollinators are insects, birds, and animals that move pollen from one flower to another, helping plants produce fruits and seeds. The number of pollinators is declining, but you can help them by planting flowers. Ask a nursery about what to grow in a pot or garden.

Start a kitchen compost. Americans throw away up to 40% of food, according to government data. When food waste ends up in landfills, it produces harmful greenhouse gases. A natural way to reduce that waste is to compost, which breaks down food to be used in soil. Instead of tossing uneaten food, as well as other items like eggshells and coffee grounds, put them in a scrap bin on your kitchen counter. Move the scraps to a compost bin outside or take them to a compost drop-off site in your area.

Rethink pest control. People spray pesticides to kill weeds, ticks, and mosquitoes. But those chemicals can harm pollinators and other plants, says Patricia Basko, a Master Gardener. "When you contaminate the soil, you may poison animals that feed on your plants," she adds. Talk to your family about eco-friendly ways to repel insects, like planting basil or marigolds. Small actions matter!

RALLY YOUR SCHOOL TO FIGHT FOOD INSECURITY

By Oscar, 11, Massachusetts

The United Nations (UN, an organization of 193 countries that work together) has set 17 goals to achieve worldwide by the year 2030. One of them is to eradicate hunger. The UN estimates that up to 318 million people experience serious hunger, which means they don't have access to healthy food when they need it. A great way to make a difference is to help make food more accessible, starting in your community. One way to do that is to set up a "free pantry" table with food and other essentials. Here's how you can get started.

Come up with a plan. Talk to people who already work in a food pantry or soup kitchen in your community. They can tell you about your area's greatest needs, such as canned beans or diaper wipes, and help brainstorm ideas about how you can get donations of them. And if you ever get too many contributions for your table to hold, you can share extra items with the local pantry.

Seek school support. One of the best places to set up a pantry table is at a neighborhood school, where families can easily access it. Explain your plan to a teacher or school administrator, and ask how to get permission to set up a table after school. Find out what days of the month you can display your table, and ask parents, grandparents, and other students to join you in running it.

Gather donations. "There is a lot of need and, unfortunately, not as many resources to keep up," said Alex Gladwell, director of programs and partnerships at Food for Free. To encourage contributions, you could ask your school's permission to set up a bin where people can place donations and post a sign about what items are needed most.

TALK ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS

By Zara, 11, Ohio

When you're sad, anxious, or lonely, it can be scary to share those feelings with other people. However, talking about your mental health can help you feel less stressed about keeping your emotions hidden and help you find support.

A year ago, I was diagnosed with anxiety and depression. I was afraid to reveal my feelings to other people. When I finally did, it felt so good. "Talking about feelings helps children make sense of their emotional experiences instead of being overwhelmed by them," says clinical psychologist Lisa Damour, PhD. "When kids put their feelings into words, they gain perspective and often feel relief."

By not talking about mental health, we add to the stigma that surrounds it and often make people feel ashamed. Some of the harmful effects of stigma can include discrimination, a lack of understanding by others, and bullying. Meanwhile, talking about mental health helps people feel more confident about sharing their emotions. By discussing mental health, you can help yourself and others.

When considering who to talk to about your feelings, Damour says, "It can help to think about who feels safe and trustworthy—someone who listens carefully and takes you seriously. The goal is to feel supported, not pressured." This person, whether a family member or a school counselor, can help by listening and assist you in getting support.

If someone makes fun of you because of how you're feeling, tell a trusted adult immediately. If someone decides to tell you about their mental health, Damour says that it's important to show care and concern. "Listening without interrupting, avoiding quick judgments, and taking feelings seriously helps young people feel safe opening up," she says.

In the end, being kind is very important—it gives people support when they might feel like they don't have any. You can make someone's day better for them—and you'll feel better, too.

CARE FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS

By Kamen, 11, Missouri

I live in a small, diverse neighborhood of 135 homes where people like to help one another. The community gathers early on Saturday mornings to work on projects like cleaning the street or sprucing up our yards. I like to help dig up weeds in the spring and summer.

One winter, I shoveled snow for a neighbor who was going through a tough personal time. I think when people help out in a neighborhood, it makes the place look nice and shows kindness to others. A few years ago, two dead trees were cut down in our community's common area, and a group of neighbors helped move branches to the side of the road for people to take home as firewood. When my friends saw me helping, they also joined in, which shows caring is contagious.

Bob McConnell, the president of my neighborhood association, says volunteering is a way to help neighbors feel connected. When all of us work together, our streets and common areas look much neater, we save money, and at the end we get a strong community. There are many things you can do, from simple efforts like picking up litter to helping water a neighbor's plants.

McConnell told me that some neighbors lend their tools, help deliver groceries, take part in a carpool, or check in on an older neighbor who lives alone. Caring for your neighbors can even be as simple as saying hi when you see them.

When neighbors help one another, the community is happier and nicer for everyone who lives there. As I've discovered, even doing small chores around my neighborhood can make someone's day better—that's pretty cool.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LORENA BAYONA

SHARE YOUR LOVE OF READING WITH OTHERS

By Manvi, 9, Washington

Books have taken me to new worlds, introduced me to fascinating characters, and taught me things I never expected. So when I found out my elementary school had a program called Reading Buddies, where older students read with younger students, I wanted in. We read stories together, talk about books, and sometimes do fun activities like games or art.

As a reading helper, I support young students as they practice phonics, pronunciation, and sounding out words. Sometimes we talk about the characters or pictures in the story to shed light on what's happening. One student I helped later performed a poem confidently at a school show. Seeing them stand onstage without fear made me feel proud and happy. It showed me that even a small amount of time, patience, and encouragement can make a big difference.

Teachers say programs like Reading Buddies help both younger and older students grow. My teacher Mrs. Kirkness says that when older students read with younger kids, they build mentorship and leadership skills. Ms. Laughlin, a language learning specialist, says younger students feel excited to share their books with older buddies and become more willing to try new genres and practice reading more often.

Kids can also spread a love of books outside school. Author Ellie Peterson, who wrote *School Is Wherever I Am*, says donating to book drives and other collections is another way to help. When kids share books and encourage one another, they can make reading fun and accessible for everyone, no matter where they are.

BE A FRIEND TO BIRDS

By Elliott, 10, California

A few years ago, my dad and I went on a Christmas Bird Count, which is an annual nationwide citizen scientist project run by the National Audubon Society. Once we started to count the birds we saw, it made me realize how important birds are to this planet and that they're fun to hunt—with our eyes!

Birds play many important roles in the environment. For example, they catch insects, disperse seeds, and pollinate certain plants. In fact, about 2,000 species of birds are pollinators.

Today, however, certain bird species are becoming extinct. "I think it is our responsibility to make sure common birds stay common and rare birds don't become extinct," says Diana Humple, senior avian ecologist at Point Blue Conservation Science, a nonprofit based in Northern California. Here's how you can be a friend to birds.

Minimize collisions. Birds often crash into windows and get killed from the impact. You can help prevent that by hanging streamers on the outside of windows or attaching special decals or stickers that will turn birds away.

Keep cats indoors. In the US alone, cats kill approximately 2.4 billion birds per year. Keeping cats inside is not only good for birds but will also keep the felines safe from predators and traffic.

Find out more about birds. Humple says buying or borrowing a field guide that you can bring into nature is a great way to learn about birds. Another is going to a nature center or bird observatory.

Go on a bird count. A bird count is a survey to keep track of bird populations. "Bird counts are often repeated over time, so you can look to see how those numbers have changed," explains Humple. "A bird count helps us understand how birds are doing and figure out if and how we need to help them."

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEAL PACKAGES

By Nia Janae, 11, California

Many people don't always have enough food to eat. This is called food insecurity. Millions of people get money or food from the government, such as through programs like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Government statistics show that SNAP served about 41.7 million people per month in 2024. In November 2025, however, SNAP benefits were delayed during the government shutdown, leaving many families without immediate help to get food. My mom and my church had a great idea. They gathered donations and put together meal packages to help those in need. I helped assemble them and learned some important insights.

First, when making these packages, it is so helpful to try to give full meals instead of random items. For example, instead of giving away assorted cans of food, we gave away breakfast kits with pancake mix and syrup, and dinner combinations like chili and cornbread mix.

Jenni Bradford, who works for our county and helped organize a meal package project at our church, has suggestions for choosing what to donate. She recommends giving items that are high in protein—like nut butters, canned fish, beans, and lentils—and have long expiration dates. Protein boosts energy, and a long shelf life allows the recipient to store it and use it when they need it.

Helping to make sure others have food to eat taught me that my efforts go far beyond providing a family with a meal. "It's not just about food," Bradford says. "Food affects your ability to function well in life." Being hungry makes it much harder for kids to concentrate and learn in school, for example. In addition, helping teaches us how to care for others. As Bradford says, "When we choose to help, we work together as a village instead of as separate individuals."

Everyone deserves to eat, and making sure that happens can change someone's life. You don't have to be an adult to make a big impact. Fighting hunger starts with all of us.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LORENA BAYONA

ENCOURAGE BIKE SAFETY

By Tae, 13, New York

A record 112 million people in America rode a bicycle in 2024. Biking is good for people's health and benefits the environment as well. Since bikes do not use gasoline, they produce no tailpipe emissions. By choosing a bike over a car once a day, the average person can significantly reduce emissions. Bikes also produce no engine noise, making cycling a quieter, cleaner choice for communities. Before you start biking, be sure to follow these guidelines to stay safe.

Know the rules of the road. Cyclists must follow the same rules as motorists, including stopping at red lights, yielding to pedestrians, and obeying speed and safety rules. Margaux Mennesson of the Safe Routes Partnership suggests learning cycling hand signals, which let a car or another cyclist know which way you're going to turn. Mennesson adds that where you ride matters. "You should try to avoid biking on the sidewalk," she says. "But if you do, be aware of driveways because cars can back out and the driver might not see you." Before passing a driveway, slow down and look both ways.

Make sure you're highly visible. Staying visible keeps everyone safer. Research shows that wearing visible clothing while cycling can reduce collision rates. Wear bright, fluorescent clothing while biking during the day and reflective materials at night. Experts also recommend fitting your bike with a front headlight and a taillight.

Always wear a helmet. Before you start cycling, be sure to put on a helmet. "A helmet can save your life," says Mennesson. Studies show that helmets reduce injuries by 63% to 88%. With an adult's help, make sure it fits properly. Consider, also, that the cost of a helmet puts it out of reach for many. You can help support organizations like the House of Good Deeds by donating new or used bike helmets. The helmets are then redistributed to those who need them.

PUT CREATIVITY TO GOOD USE

By Lucy, 11, Tennessee

Did you know that your favorite crafting hobby, whether it's drawing, knitting, crochet, or painting, could make a huge difference in someone's life? It can! Here's how.

Knit hats for babies. Knitting or crocheting hats for babies is a great way to keep newborns warm in the hospital. You can call your local hospital's maternity ward to ask whether they have preferences for sizes or materials. You could also collect hats from anyone you know who likes to knit and add them to your donations.

Draw cards for the elderly. Elderly people living in a senior community may not get many visitors or have family living close by. You can show them some love by drawing them cards, especially around the holidays. Receiving a handmade card from you just might be the highlight of their week.

Give to an animal shelter. You can call your local animal shelter to see what items they need. You may have fabric that could be a comfy blanket for animals to snuggle up in. Some shelters accept homemade items. For example, you could take an old T- shirt, cut it into strips, and braid the strips to make a pet toy!

Volunteer. Search for a charity in your area that will welcome kids as volunteers. An organization near me called YAIPAK (You Are Important People Administering Kindness) helps anyone going through rough times and encourages families to volunteer together. YAIPAK founder Sherry Nicholson says that up to 300 volunteers help weekly, which shows that volunteering is rewarding work!

EXPLORE AMAZING SCIENTIFIC EFFORTS

By Aditya, 11, Washington

Archaeology (the study of objects left by people long ago) is vital in today's world because it connects communities to their heritage and deepens our respect for diverse histories. To find out more about the importance of this type of work, I spoke with Frances Gallart Marques, the former Frederick Randolph Grace Curatorial Fellow at the Harvard Art Museums. "As an archaeologist, I am constantly touching things that someone held thousands of years ago. If I can hold an object and feel connected to someone so far removed from me, then I can feel connected to anyone alive on Earth now."

I personally learned this through my experience with a First Lego League robotics competition, which explored the theme of archaeology. It opened my eyes to real problems archaeologists face, like artifact preservation and the vandalization of digs.

Funding is another major problem faced by archaeologists. Even small community fundraising efforts in support of the Archaeological Institute of America can have a positive impact on fieldwork. Advocating for the protection of archaeological digs and raising awareness in your school are two additional ways to support the work of archaeologists.

For kids interested in archaeology, Marques suggests starting with a local museum and exploring the National Park Service's Junior Archaeologist program for children ages 6–12. Older teens can look for field volunteer opportunities on excavations.

Marques studied science before becoming an archaeologist, and she believes patience and curiosity matter most. "Archaeology is a science that wants to understand humans," she says, "and it benefits from a diversity of human thought and voices."

Crisscross

Each of these occupations fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

3 letters
CEO
EMT

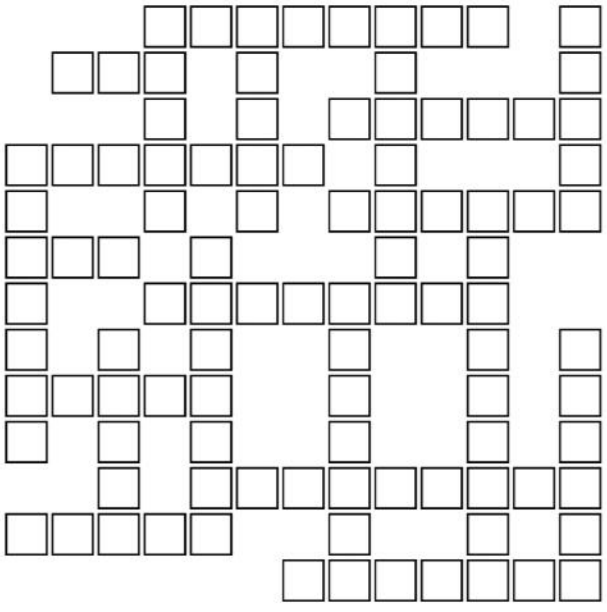
5 letters
ACTOR
COACH
MINER
MODEL
PILOT
SCOUT

6 letters
ARTIST
TELLER
WRITER

7 letters
ATHLETE
CATCHER
CHEMIST
DENTIST
SURGEON
TEACHER

8 letters
COMPOSER
MECHANIC

9 letters
LOCKSMITH
SCIENTIST



Take five

Five 5-letter sea creatures are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

T	H	R	L	T
W	Q	N	I	H
M	R	A	U	D
S	E	O	T	E
P	A	U	C	A

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters A-M-P. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

1. **Dracula, for example** ☐AMP☐☐☐
2. **Wetland like the Okefenokee** ☐☐AMP
3. **Famous soup company** ☐AMP☐☐☐☐'☐
4. **Kind of animal like a frog or salamander** AMP☐☐☐☐☐☐
5. **Florida home of the Buccaneers football team** ☐AMP☐ ☐☐☐

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

	3				4
2				6	
			3		
		1			
	1				2
4				5	

Spot the difference

These two pictures of food being loaded onto a jet appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Take five hint: The word that begins with P ends with H.

Lightning's electrifying finish

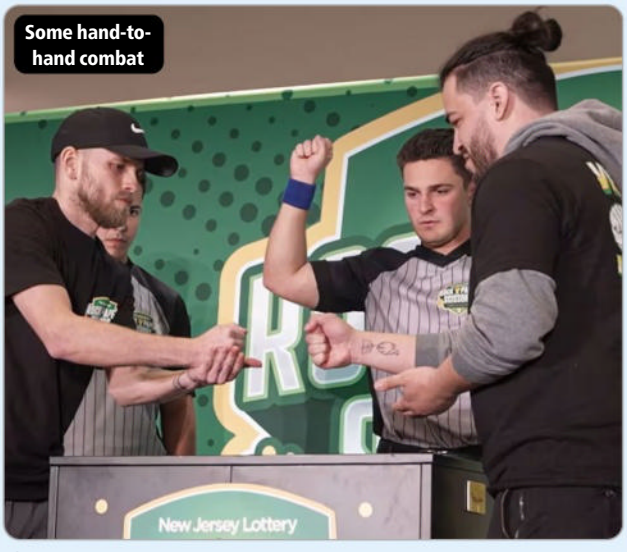
Robot beats human speed record

A robot named Lightning lived up to its speedy name by running a race in record time. About 100 bots competed in a lane alongside 12,000 humans at the Beijing E-Town Half-Marathon. On the human side, Zhao Haijie won the 13.1-mile race in 1:07:47. But Lightning blew past its fellow runners—human and machine alike. Despite crashing into a barrier near the end, the bot finished in 50:26, nearly seven minutes faster than the world record held by athlete Jacob Kiplimo. Beijing called it "a major step forward" for robotics.

Glizzy and glam

Wienermobile heads to prom

Five students at a Kansas high school traded a typical ride to prom for a vehicle that was, frankly, more exciting. Instead of a stretch limousine, the teens arrived in the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile, which they nicknamed the "limoweenie." The students had encountered the famous footlong at a NASCAR event and joked about taking it to the big dance. The company then surprised them by picking them up from their pre-prom photo shoot. Wienermobile driver Maggie Dawson said it was "a bunforgettable night."



Some hand-to-hand combat

Competitive rock-paper-scissors

Rock beats scissors. Paper beats rock. Scissors beat paper. For three days, 384 competitors battled it out with their hands and minds at the Rock Paper Scissors Throwdown. This annual event in New Jersey is a bracket-style tournament in which the winner of each match moves on to the next round. Referees ensure fairness, and the final champion receives $10,000. This year's winner, Julio Rivera, said he came in with no real strategy except to trust his gut. "My blood was pumping," he told NBC News.

Real or fake?

Is this flavor a best-sheller?

Ice cream served with claws

Looking for something savory and sweet, with a crunch? Look no further than Red Circle Ice Cream, a Texas-based scoop shop that is offering crawfish ice cream. Inspired by Viet-Cajun crawfish boils, the treat features a base of butter, garlic, and Cajun spices. Crawfish are boiled in the mix to infuse their special flavor, and the concoction is topped with a whole boiled crawfish, which the shop recommends using as a spoon. The treat is popular and has been described as "a little spicy." Is this true, or are we telling a shellfish lie?*

*Real! The shop's owner, Nickey Ngo, created the flavor in 2019 and sells it each spring, when Texas crawfish are at their peak size. The ice cream sells out frequently, so Ngo recommends calling before showing up.

GETTY IMAGES; WBW; BILL ANGELUCCI/NBC NEWS; NICKEY NGO; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

Editor's note

Each year, I enjoy finding out what theme the members of our Junior Council will focus on and what specific ideas they'll write about in our annual "Change the World" issue. The 2026 theme is helping your community—a very worthwhile topic! I was impressed with the suggestions the children shared on pages 22–25 and hope they will spark some ideas for you too! I would like to thank the children for the commitment they made and upheld to the council and to one another this year. And I hope anyone who is interested in being part of the council will consider applying for next year's session. The application process will open in the fall. Above all, remember that you can always speak up for causes you care about and find ways to make a difference in your family, school, and community. If you do, write and tell us about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*! We love hearing from you.

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

Hayley, 10, New Jersey

Dedicated to donating food

"I like to raise money or collect food to help others. Last year, I organized a food drive. I made flyers, handed them out in my neighborhood, and collected 167 food items. This year, I increased the total to 281. Both years, I donated the collected food to the Food Bank of South Jersey. I hope to run a food drive every year as long as I can and keep making the world a better place."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

How do ranchers count up their herds?

They use COWculators.

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Upwardly Global

The goal of this organization is to help immigrants and refugees build their careers in the US. The group provides networking opportunities and job coaching, including help with writing resumes and practicing for interviews. Since its founding in 2000, the group has helped thousands of people move into long-term professional careers. Find out more at upwardlyglobal.org.

A new book just for kids!

***The Week Junior* has created its first-ever bookazine (a combination of a book and a magazine). The title is *All About America*, and it celebrates this year's 250th anniversary of our nation's founding in 1776. The 100-page book is packed with fascinating facts about the amazing people, ideas, events, and landmarks that make our country special. Think of it as a road map of the American spirit! To find out more about it, have an adult go with you to magazineshop.us/theweekjunior. *All About America* is also available at bookstores and grocery stores throughout the country.**

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"I made the broccoli cheddar grilled cheese. I'm really proud of what I made, and it tasted really good." Levi, 10, Colorado

"We love the article on Utah's Mighty Five! It brought back memories of our RV road trip to all five of the parks last year." Colby, 12, and Colette, 9, Texas

"*The Week Junior* has taken over my reading corner. I look forward to my new issue every week!" Theo, 9, California

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Miss Ra**

School Name: **Wescott Elementary School**

"If you think about what your ideal teacher would be like—kind, caring, and fun—you'd be picturing Miss Ra. She always makes sure we understand everything she teaches. Miss Ra works hard to make learning fun for our class, and she has given me a lot of advice that I will continue to use throughout my entire life. Most important, Miss Ra is the best!"

Lennox, 10, Illinois

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

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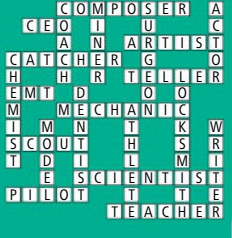
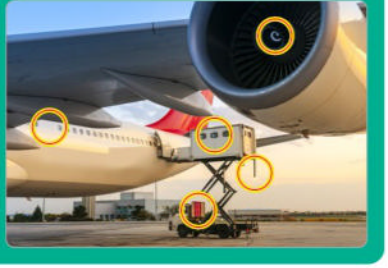
Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Take five
trout
whale
manta
squid
perch

All the same
1. vampire
2. swamp
3. Campbell's
4. amphibian
5. Tampa Bay

1	3	6	5	2	4
2	5	4	1	6	3
5	4	2	3	1	6
3	6	1	2	4	5
6	1	5	4	3	2
4	2	3	6	5	1



Quiz answers (from page 30) **1** False. They climbed higher to get almonds. **2** b) Hailey Baptiste **3** a) Dustin **4** New York **5** a) Assists **6** True **7** Golden Tempo **8** a) 1949 **9** c) England **10** True **11** Indus **12** c) New York Knicks **13** False. It experienced an increase in ridership. **14** Steel **15** b) Lightning

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 True or false? In a new study, squirrels climbed higher to get pumpkin seeds instead of almonds.

True ☐ False ☐

2 Which American tennis player beat Aryna Sabalenka in a major upset at the Madrid Open?

a) Coco Gauff b) Hailey Baptiste c) Madison Keys

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 In the graphic novel *Last Day Pool Party*, which character throws the pool party?

a) Dustin b) Maya c) Rose

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 In which US state can visitors tour Jim Henson's Creature Shop?

5 Basketball player Sue Bird retired from the WNBA as the league's all-time leader in which category?

a) Assists b) Points c) Steals

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? A recent study found that AI data centers warm up their surrounding area.

True ☐ False ☐

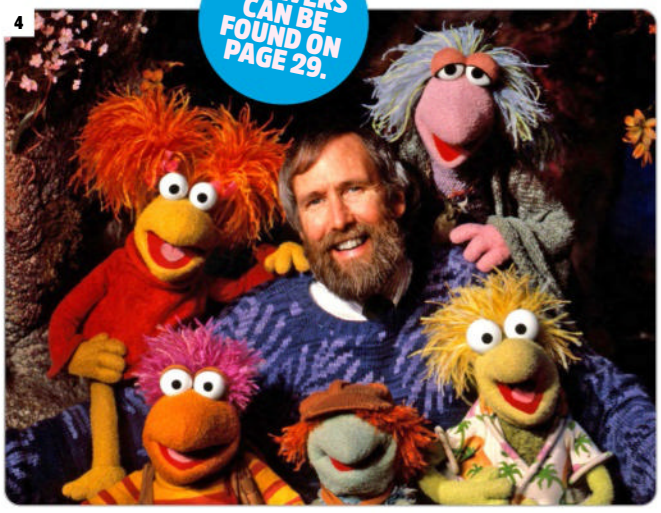
7 Which horse was the winner of this year's Kentucky Derby?

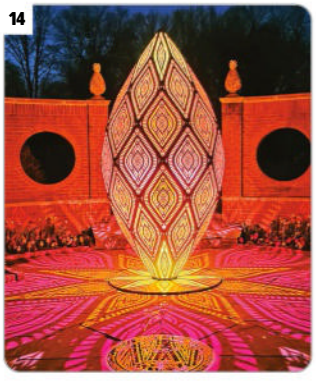
8 In what year was Mental Health Awareness Month first held in the US?

a) 1949 b) 1969 c) 1989

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.





9 Which country is spending more than $1 billion to bring back golden eagles?

a) Australia

b) Canada

c) England

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? Arsenio Hall made history as the first Black person to host a late-night talk show.

True ☐ False ☐

11 The city of Mohenjo-daro was part of an ancient civilization that lived along what river?

12 Which basketball team set a new NBA record for the largest halftime lead in playoff history?

a) Boston Celtics

b) Los Angeles Lakers

c) New York Knicks

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? The Amtrak passenger railroad experienced a drop in ridership this March.

True ☐ False ☐

14 The sculptures in the Missouri Botanical Garden's exhibit *Patterns in Nature: The Art of HYBYCOZO* are made from what metal?

15 What is the name of the robot that recently set a world record at the Beijing E-Town Half-Marathon?

a) Flash b) Lightning c) Zoom

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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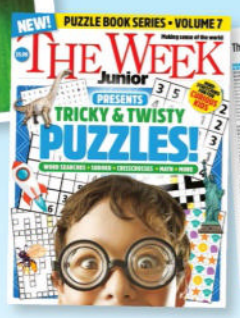
Keep kids reading all summer long!

2026 Summer of Reading
THE WEEK Junior

Give a gift of *The Week Junior* for a smart start on summer reading fun! Our Summer of Reading program includes booklists, author interviews, and an exclusive three-book reading challenge with a chance to win an amazing bundle of books! It's a wonderful way to support a child's literacy over the summer and inspire a love of reading that will last a lifetime. Perfect for birthdays, graduation, or anytime you want to delight a child you love.



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REGAL ROOM

The State Hall inside the Austrian National Library in Vienna was built in the 1700s by Emperor Charles VI and has a 98-foot-high painted dome.

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